

**UNITEHERE!**

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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JUL 28 2014

July 22, 2014

FCC Mail Room

The Honorable Thomas Wheeler  
 Chairman  
 Federal Communications Commission  
 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
 Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Docket No. 12-3

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

On behalf of UNITE HERE, I write to express opposition to the Commission's proposal to eliminate its Sports Blackout Rule. UNITE HERE is a labor union that represents hundreds of thousands of working people in the hotel, food service, transportation and other service industries across North America.

We stand in solidarity with our brothers in the National Football League Players Association, who strongly support maintaining this long-standing rule. The talented and dedicated players of the NFL directly benefit from the rule, as do sports fans, local communities and the public, including members of this union.

The current broadcast rules facilitate and support policies that promote robust attendance at professional football games. These policies result in sold-out games and capacity crowds, which not only add to the excitement and drama for those inside an NFL stadium, but also reward NFL players since a percentage of stadium revenue goes to players' salaries.

The policies leading to full stadiums also generate economic activity, helping to support thousands of jobs and businesses in communities throughout the country. Many workers -- including our union members -- depend on the wages generated by fans attending sold-out games and other stadium events for income to support their families. These workers include custodial staff, parking attendants, concessionary clerks, hotel and restaurant workers and others in the hospitality industry. They all benefit when hundreds of thousands of fans come together to watch and support their favorite teams on game day.

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D. TAYLOR, PRESIDENT

GENERAL OFFICERS: Sherri Chiesa, Secretary-Treasurer • Peter Ward, Recording Secretary  
 Tho Thi Do, General Vice President for Immigration, Civil Rights and Diversity

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Our members also benefit when NFL games sell out and are shown on free, over-the-air television. Many working people throughout the country cannot easily afford cable or satellite television, particularly during this time of rising costs, falling earnings and economic uncertainty. In fact, a growing number of Americans rely exclusively on free TV for their news and entertainment, such as NFL games. This includes our hardworking members, who want to ensure that NFL football remains on free TV.

For these reasons, UNITE HERE respectfully requests that the Commission keep the current broadcast rules in place. The rules promote full stadiums, which provide job and employment opportunities for the working people that we are proud to represent. The rules also promote free television, an important resource on which many workers rely.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. R. Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

D. R. Taylor  
President of UNITE HERE

cc: Ms. Marlene Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission